

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 44 No. 5

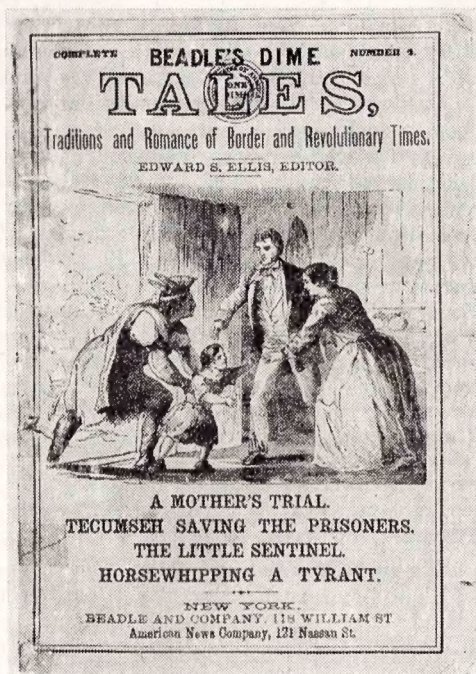
May 15, 1975

Whole No. 512

Oliver Optic (William Taylor Adams) As Author and Editor

By S. E. Wallen

(Conclusion)



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 184

BEADLE'S DIME TALES

Publisher: Beadle & Co., 118 William St., New York, N. Y. Issues: 12. Dates: Sept. 15, 1863 to August 10, 1864. Schedule of Issue: Monthly. Size: 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ x7 $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Pages: 64. Price: 10c. Illustrations: Cover illustration on buff colored paper with 4 woodcuts within each volume. Contents: Four "short stories of Border and Indian Life, of the American Revolution, of the Settlements, of Hunters' Experiences and Heroic Deeds, which give to American history all the elements of wild romance!"

Oliver Optic (William Taylor Adams) As Author and Editor

By S. E. Wallen

(Conclusion)

Oliver Optic's Magazine—Our Boys and Girls was the official title. Optic himself liked to call it "our Magazine," using the editorial pronoun and capitalizing the noun. To save time and space, we will refer to it as "the Magazine."

The Magazine was first published in weekly parts in 1867. There were two volumes each calendar year. The rather attractive line drawing on the cover was used for the life of the magazine. It began with the cover drawing in black ink on a light tan or ivory paper. With No. 26 red ink was used to brighten the cover. Much to the regret of a number of subscribers beginning with Vol IV, #79, dated Saturday, July 4, 1868 the red ink was discontinued. It was a thin publication as a weekly, averaging about 26 pages, some of which were often heavy with advertising. In February, 1870, they advised that the paper was available in monthly issues containing the four or five weekly issues of the past month, in addition to the regular weekly edition. Apparently this was a successful trial and beginning with the January, 1871 issue it became a monthly with no further weekly editions. The numbering was still two volumes to each year.

Considering the era for which it was published, it was an extremely interesting and well-illustrated paper. The weekly issues sold for six cents each, and the price was increased to twenty-five cents a copy with the monthly edition. The larger edition retained the same line drawing for the cover, but had an added orange paper cover. While Lee & Shepard used it as a catalog of their publications, it might be considered by and large as Oliver Optic's OWN magazine. Several chapters of one of his continued serials was always featured and held tight to the format of feature story on the front page once the cover was opened. It appears rather certain that he had full editorial control of the content of each issue. Among the regular features were "Our Letter Bag" and an editorial page. The "Head Work" department appeared in each issue, filled with puzzles sent in by the young readers. An occasional full page professional puzzle picture with prizes (usually of Oliver Optic's books) offered for the best answers, probably created some excitement among the readers and no doubt did no harm as a circulation builder.

The final issue came in December of 1875, a total number of 269. Oliver Optic had completed his current serial and failed to announce the up-coming one, but the Rev. Elijah Kellogg, another regularly featured serial writer, was caught with the current story concluded and the next one promised with its title; "On the Trail; or, The Black Rifle's Mission," which never got started in the Magazine.

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Postmaster: Send form 3579 to 821 Vermont St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044

The claim was made of a subscription list of 100,000 or more, but they were continually spurring the young puzzlers to send in clubs of new subscribers. Another suspicious fact from this point in history, is that all through its nine years of life, all issues from number one on were available for those who wanted back copies. Maybe they over-printed and under-sold? As an example, after *Golden Days* was only a few years along the earlier copies were out of print and could no longer be supplied. Not only may the Magazine have become too expensive as a business operation for Lee & Shepard, but it is known that they had had several costly fires. Printing plants were always burning down at this period in Boston. The indications are that the decision to suspend publication might have been a hasty one.

Along with regular material from Oliver Optic there was also featured both the Rev. Elijah Kellogg and Sophie May as serial writers. The three made up an unusually rich menu for the times.

The once very popular political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) illustrated some of Optic's serials and from time to time did a full page special drawing for the Magazine. The illustrations were quite satisfactory, but the full-page efforts did nothing for the publication or the artist's reputation. Apparently an artist did the illustrations which were then turned over to the engraver, he in turn produced the picture that appeared in print. In most cases the name of the artist is lost in the background (not Thomas Nast's!) and the only identifying initials or names are followed by "Sc". An inquiry answered in the Magazine informs us that this stands for the Latin "Sculpsit," or, we suppose, engraver. Quite often Optic's stories have several more illustrations in the Magazine than are used later in the book publication.

Here are a few of the items from "Our Mail Bag" through the years. Our own comments are in parentheses: (January, 1868) "Dikes and Ditches" will appear as soon as it is possible to get it from the author's brain to the publisher's table, which will probably be next spring . . . (April, 1868) If fifty correspondents ask the same question, as, When will Dike and Ditches be published? we answer but once . . . C.H.B., your tricks with cards could not be done by Our Boys and Girls, for they do not play with cards; and for ourself, there is not a pack of cards in the house. (Nor did "his" boys and girls smoke!) . . . The postage on the Magazine is extra, and should be paid at your own office. Send us \$2.50, and pay your postmaster twenty cents a year for postage. (We have a few copies stamped "postage due.") . . . Reader must see that it is quite impossible for the author of "Palace and Cottage" to falsify the truth of history, but it does not yet appear that Paul Kendall has lost his chances, which we may understand when we read the book . . . Owing to grave and onerous duties of state which have devolved upon us the past season, the publication of this volume of the "Young America" series will unavoidably be delayed until the fall—a circumstance we regret as much as any of our friends can do. (Which gives some indication of the freedom given Oliver Optic; also the pressures under which he must have been working.) . . . We did write such a book, but it is now out of print. (No title given, but want to bet it was one of his own unpopular adult books?) . . . What house would suit lovers of the weed? Smoke house. They ought all to be shut up in one . . . The Magazines are mailed from the publishing house (in Boston) on Wednesday, ten days before date, and ought to reach West Philadelphia by Friday at least. (Not today, we wager!) . . . The Onward and Upward series will appear in the Magazine first; we give our boys and girls the preference, of course, and let them sit at the first table . . . Those of our boys and girls who think Oliver Optic is in Europe are greatly mistaken; he will not go till summer-time. (His regular travel letters after he did go were exceptionally inter-

esting.) . . . We edited for nine years the magazine to which Ski refers. (Could this have been Student and Schoolmate?)

Serials (book lengths, all of which became books after serializing) appearing in *Oliver Optic's Magazine*, are itemized below. The name of the illustrator, when known, is also included because these same illustrations were used in the book publication.

- 1867—Vol. I No. 1-26—The Starry Flag; or, The Young Fisherman of Cape Ann. (1-5- 7 to 6-29-67) Illustrated by Kilburn
Vol. II No. 27-39—Breaking Away ;or, The Fortunes of a Student. (7-6-67 to 9-23-67) Illustrated by Kilburn
Vol. II No. 40-52—Seek and Find; or, The Adventures of a Smart Boy. (10-5-67 to 12-28-67) Illus. by Kilburn and W. L. Champney
- 1868—Vol. III No. 53-65—Freaks of Fortune; or, Half Round the World. (1-4-68 to 3-29-68) Illustrated by W. L. Champney
Vol. III No. 66-78—Make or Break; or, The Rich Man's Daughter. (4-4-68 to 6-27-68) Illustrated by Hamatt Billings
Vol. IV No. 79-92—Down the River; or, Buck Bradford and the Tyrants. (7-1-68 to 10-3-68) Illus. by Thomas Nast
Vol. IV No. 93-104—Through By Daylight; or, The Young Engineer of the Lake Shore Road. (10-10-68 to 12-26-68) Illus. by W. L. Champney
- 1869—Vol. V No. 105-117—Lightning Express; or, The Rival Academies. (1-2-69 to 3-27-69) Illus. by J. J. Harley
Vol. V No. 118-130—On Time; or, The Young Captain of the Ucayga Steamer. (4-3-69 to 6-26-69) Illus. by J. J. Harley
Vol VI No. 131-143—Switch Off; or, The War of the Students. (7-3-69 to 9-25-69) Illus. by H. W. Herrick
Vol. VI No. 144-156—Brake Up; or, The Young Peacemakers. (10-2-69 to 12-25-69) Illus. by J. J. Harley
- 1870—Vol. VII No. 157-169—Bear and Forbear; or, The Young Skipper of Lake Ucayga. (1-1-70 to 3-26-70) Illus. by R. Sayer
Vol. VII No. 170-182—Field and Forest; or, The Fortunes of a Farmer. (4-2-70 to 6-25-70) Illus. by H. W. Herrick
Vol. VIII No. 183-195—Plane and Plank; or, The Mishaps of a Mechanic (7-2-70 to 9-24-70) Illus. by H. W. Herrick
Vol. VIII No. 196-209—Desk and Debit; or, The Catastrophes of a Clerk (10-1-70 to 12-31-70) Illus. by H. W. Herrick
- 1871—Vol. IX No. 210-215 (Monthly issues)—Cringle and Cross-Tree; or, The Sea Swashes of a Sailor (1-71 to 6-71) Illus. by Henry L. Stephens
Vol. X No. 216-221 -Bivouc and Battle; or, The Struggles of a Soldier. (7-71 to 12-71) Illus. by Henry L. Stephens
- 1872—Vol. XI No. 222-227—Sea and Shore; or, The Tramps of a Traveler. (1-72 to 3-72) Illus by Henry L. Stephens
Vol. XII No. 228-233—Little Bobtail; or, The Wreck of the Penobscot. (7-72 to 12-72) Illus. by C. G. Bush
- 1873—Vol. XIII No. 234-239—The Yacht Club; or, The Young Boatbuilder. (1-73 to 3-73) Illus. by C. G. Bush
Vol XIV No. 240-245—Money-Maker; or, The Victory of the Basilisk. (7-73 to 12-73) Illus. by C. G. Bush
- 1874—Vol. XV No. 246-251—The Coming Wave; or, The Hidden Treasure of High Rock. (1-74 to 6-74)
Vol. XVI No. 252-257—The Dorcas Club; or, Our Girls Afloat. (7-74 to 12-74)

1875—Vol. XVII No. 258-263—Ocean Born; or, The Cruise of the Clubs.

(1-75 to 6-75) Illus. by Miss L. B. Humphrey and C. G. Bush

Vol. XVIII No. 264-269—Going West; or, The Perils of a Poor Boy.

(7-75 to 12-75) Illus. by Miss L. B. Humphrey

Publication of **Oliver Optic's Magazine** discontinued with December, 1875.

It is apparent from the serials which originally ran in **Oliver Optic's Magazine** that Optic was completing his **Starry Flag Series**, **Lake Shore Series**, **Upward and Onward Series**, **Yacht Club Series** and had included the first volume of **The Great Western Series**.

In the October, 1872 issue a new publication announcement appears, to be ready in October. This is the only mention of these special "Christmas" (?) volumes that this writer has noted, although, as quoted, they must have been available in 1871 also. Nor has the author ever seen one of these books: like **Chatterbox** and other annuals, many of them must have been sold. **Our Boys and Girls Treasure**: Containing Oliver Optic's popular stories, "Brake Up; or, (etc.), "Switch Off; or, (etc.)", **Stories of the Sea**, **Tales of Wonder**, **Records of Travel**, **Anecdotes of Natural History**, **Wonderful Things**, **Dialogues**, **Puzzles**, etc. Edited by Oliver Optic. With numerous full-page and letterpress engravings. Covers printed in colors. 8vo. \$1.50 **Our Boys and Girls Companion**: "Lightning Express," "On Time," etc and etc. **Our Boys and Girls Keepsake**: "Bear and Forbear," "Field and Forest," etc. and etc.

"These books are uniform with **Our Boys and Girls Story Teller**, and **Our Boys and Girls Favorite**, so popular last year. They present a great amount of pleasant and useful reading at a remarkably low price." Oliver Optic and/or his publishers were great merchandisers.

These year end publications represent six additional volumes. Were there more?

Also advertised is **Oliver Optic's Almanac for Boys and Girls—1872**, priced at 30 cents. These were available for several years. How many? Edited by Optic and filled with, other than monthly calendars we suppose, short stories, tableaux (their word) and other oddments. At one point in the Magazine, when the prize has been "all" of the books of Optic, the Almanac has been included.

Oliver Optic's Magazine did loom big in Optic's achievements, surpassed only, we would suppose, by his books.

The Magazine was occasionally referred to as for boys and girls and "for youth of all ages." In 1870 the advertisements picked up to an extent that one wonders of what interest they might have for juveniles: tea, parlor organs, sewing machines, carbolic salve, yeast powder, toilet soap, Photograph Marriage Certificates (whatever they may have been!), Charles Dana's **The Sun**, clothing, kerosene lamps, life insurance, Sapolio pan cleaner, diabetic flour, corsets, **The Phrenological Journal**, cure for rupture, **The Science of Health Monthly**, shot guns (did you ever!!), and domestic paper dress patterns, to mention some. It is only fair, however, to add that similar items were accepted by most publications—the money received for the space used was, without doubt, quite a windfall for the publisher.

Let us explore what Oliver Optic did for **Golden Days**. My good friend John T. Dizer, Jr., has written, and we quote from **The Boys' Book Collector**, Vol. I, No. 1, Fall, 1969: "Optic was so popular that 17 serials which had appeared only in **Golden Days** magazine were published in book form in 1912, 15 years after his death and did quite well . . . Both Optic and Alger published about the same number of books, Optic supposedly 116 and Alger supposedly 117 . . ." (We have not seen the 1912 reprint(s) to check against our list.)

Mr. Dizer we know to be a careful and conscientious researcher, but we

can account for only 11 serials, not 17; all eleven were repeated in later issues of **Golden Days**:

- Lost-On Island—1880
- Minding His Own Business—1880-81
- Building Himself Up—1881
- Lyon Hart; or, Adrift in the World—1882-83
- Louis Chiswick; or, Going with The Current—1883
- Royal Tarr; or, Learning to Live—1883
- The Professor's Son; or, Triumphs of a Young Athlete—1884
- Fighting for His Own—1885
- His Own Helper; or, Doing for Himself—1885-86
- Kit Dunstable; or, A Watch for Nothing—1887
- Three Young Silver Kings—1887

We have not found any of these titles in book form, they are all of serial length, so we believe that they should be counted in the total number of books. Some day, someone with few other demands on their time, is going to read all of Oliver Optic's serials and determine which, with some modification, have been turned into books.

In **Golden Argosy** we have found the following serials:

- Making a Man of Himself—1883-84
- Every Inch a Boy—1884
- Always in Luck—1887
- The Young Pilot of Montoban—1887
- The Cruise of the Dandy—1887-88
- The Young Hermit of Lake Minnetonka—1888
- The Prisoner of the Cave—1888-89
- Among the Missing—1890

We will conclude these specialized listings with those book titles we have uncovered with copyright dates after 1866 and not originating in **Oliver Optic's Magazine**:

The Great Western Series

- Out West; or, Roughing It on the Great Lakes (1875)
- Lake Breezes; or, The Cruise of the Sylvania (1878)
- Going South; or, Yachting on the Atlantic Coast (1879)
- Down South; or, Yacht Adventures in Florida (1880)
- Up the River; or, Yachting on the Mississippi (1881)

The Boat Building Series

- All Adrift; or, The Goldwing Club (1883?)
- Snug Harbor; or, The Champlain Mechanics (1883?)
- Square and Compass; or, Building the House (1884)
- Stem to Stern; or, Building the Boat (1884?)
- All Taut; or, Rigging the Boat (1884?)
- Ready About; or, Sailing the Boat (1884?)

Young America Abroad — First Series

- Outward Bound; or, Young America Afloat (1866)
- Shamrock and Thistle; or, Young America in Ireland & Scotland (1867)
- Red Cross; or, Young America in England and Wales (1867)
- Dikes and Ditches; or, Young America in Holland and Belgium (1868)
- Palace and Cottage; or, Young America in France & Switzerland ('68)
- Down the Rhine; or, Young America in Germany (1869)

Young America — Second Series

- Up the Baltic; or, Young America in Norway, Sweden & Denmark ('71)
- Northern Lands; or, Young America in Russia and Prussia (1871?)
- Cross and Crescent; or, Young America in Turkey and Greece (1872)

Sunny Shores; or, Young America in Italy and Austria (1874)
Vine and Olive; or, Young America in Spain and Portugal (1876)
Isles of the Sea; or, Young America Homeward Bound (1877)

All Over the World Library — First Series

A Missing Million; or, The Adventures of Louis Belgrave (1891)
A Millionaire at Sixteen; or, The Cruise of the Guardian (1832)
A Young Knight-Errent; or, Cruising in the West Indies
Strange Sights Abroad; or, A Voyage in European Waters

Second Series

American Boys Afloat; or, Cruising in the Orient (1893)
The Young Navigators; or, The Foreign Cruise of the Maud
Up and Down the Nile; or, Young Adventurers in Africa
Asiatic Breezes; or, Students on the Wing

Third Series

Across India; or, Live Boys in the Far East
Half Round the World; or, Among the Uncivilized
Four Young Explorers; or, Sight-seeing in the Tropics
Pacific Shores; or, Adventures in Eastern Seas (1897?)

The Blue and the Gray—Afloat

Taken by the Enemy (1888)
Within the Enemy's Lines
On the Blockade (1890)
Stand by the Union
Fighting for the Right (1892)
A Victorious Union

The Blue and the Gray—On Land

Brother Against Brother (1894)
In the Saddle
A Lieutenant at Eighteen (1895)
On the Staff (1896)
At the Front
An Undivided Union (1899)

The Blue and the Gray Series apparently were Optic's last, since he died on March 27, 1897. Lee and Shepard who were then at 10 Milk Street, Boston, did themselves and Oliver Optic proud. These are by far the most beautiful books of the period that the author has seen. The front and back of the cloth covers are blue and gray with titles in black. The spines have the titles in gold, the author and series in black; a decorative wreath with ribbons, all in gold, encircles the series title. On the blue and gray of the front are the badges of the Union and Confederate veterans in gold. The author's name, Oliver Optic, also appears in gold on the front. Each of these in fine condition, would make a magnificent addition to any collection. They sold at no higher prices than earlier volumes, \$1.50 each. These titles did appear later in a very cheap reprint and binding at, we suppose, a somewhat reduced price.

The Publisher's Preface to "An Undivided Union" reads, in part: "The outlined and incomplete material of 'An Undivided Union' were left among the papers of the late William T. Adams ('Oliver Optic'), and the same notes that were to complete the 'Blue and Gray—On Land' series also closed the life-work of America's best-known writer of boys' series.

"There has been a constant demand that this unfinished concluding volume be prepared for publication, and Mr. Edward Stratemeyer, author of the remarkably popular 'Old Glory Series,' based upon the Spanish-American war,

undertook the task of picking up the threads of the narrative and carrying it to such a conclusion as was evidently intended . . .

"The publishers take this opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of Mr. Adams, whose name has been inseparably connected with this house for so many years. Such was his loyalty that no manuscript for publication in bound form was ever given to any other publisher, and the present volume is the one hundred and eighth to bear the magical name of 'Optic.' It is gratifying to be able to record that in return for his steadfastness in remaining by the house of his choice through prosperity and adversity an actual sale of more than two million copies of Mr. Adams's books has been reached, while the present season finds them enjoying undiminished favor.

" . . . All who had any connection with the publication of Mr. Adams's works loved the man, and his visits were marked with cheerful words for each one, in whatever capacity employed, and will linger helpfully while life remains . . .

LEE AND SHEPARD.

April 1, 1899."

Regardless of our reporting publication of books by Phillips, Sampson & Co., and Crosby, Nichols, Lee and Company, this statement can be accepted, assuming that once Lee and Shepard were in business, Optic considered them his book publishers.

However, Lee and Shepard's announcement that they published 108 books somehow doesn't quite agree with Helen L. Jones' (in Horn Book Magazine, April, 1969) comment referred to earlier: "One hundred and twenty-three of these fairly succulent hamburgers ground out by Mr. William T. Adams were listed in Lee and Shepard's catalogue for 1900, grouped in sets of from three to twelve . . ." ("Hamburgers" is Ms. Jones' own word; like her "little monstrosities" quoted earlier. Her vocabulary is after my own heart, I would like to have known the lady!) Who has access to Lee and Shepard's catalog for 1900? It would clear up a lot to check these offerings of Optic's against any current lists—including the 108 of the publisher's 1899 report. Here we have Lee and Shepard mentioning 108 in 1899 and our being told that the 1900 catalog gives 123! Could it be that even publishers do not know what they have done after the first hundred?

The time has come for us to make our own tally. This can serve as a check list, as well as giving us a sort of bird's eye view of what kept Oliver Optic busy year by year.

First we want to comment about an earlier statement in this article that Optic wrote the awful dime novels. Actually what appears to have happened is that what he wrote and sold Beadle was one **uncompleted** story: "The Pink of the Pacific; or, The Adventures of a Stowaway." This first appeared in the "Young New Yorker" in 1879, then in the "Saturday Journal" of the same year, and then again in 1896 in "Beadle's Banner Weekly" with a slightly changed sub-title: "The King of the Pacific; or, Running Down the Kidnappers." Apparently all three printings of the story were of the **incompleted** first version. The fact that Beadle never got anyone to pin an ending on it, suggests that anything they printed must have sold, finished or not. Looks as though Beadle must have gotten a great deal more mileage out of this unfinished story than Optic did money for his effort.

Here is our check list:

(Early, dates unknown) Living Too Fast. Editor of 'Our Little Ones.'

1838—Article in "Social Monitor"

1845—Two temperance tales in "Washingtonian"

1853—Hatchie, the Guardian Slave (under pen name of Warren T. Ashton)

- 1854—The Boat Club
 1855—All Aboard
 In Doors and Out
 1856—Now or Never
 1857—Try Again
 Also a short story in **The Yankee Privateer** (over his own name Adams)
 1858—Poor and Proud
 1858 to 1866—Edited "Student and Schoolmate"
 1860—Little by Little
 1862—The Riverdale Stories (The 12 little books)
 1863—Rich and Humble
 In School and Out
 The Sailor Boy
 The Soldier Boy
 Fighting Joe
 1864—Watch and Wait
 1865—Work and Win
 The Yankee Middy
 The Young Lieutenant
 1866—Hope and Have
 Haste and Waste
 Brave Old Salt
 Outward Bound
 The Way of the World (adult)
 1867 to 1875—Edited **Oliver Optic's Magazine**
 1867—The Starry Flag
 Breaking Away
 Seek and Find
 Shamrocks and Thistle
 Red Cross
 1868—Our Standard Bearer: Life of General U. S. Grant
 Freaks of Fortune
 Make or Break
 Down the River
 Through by Daylight
 Dikes and Ditches
 Palace and Cottage
 1869—Lightning Express
 On Time
 Switch Off
 Brake Up
 Bear and Forbear
 Down the Rhine
 1870—Field and Forest
 Plane and Plank
 Desk and Debit
 1871—Cringle and Cross-Tree
 Bivouac and Battle
 Up the Baltic
 Northern Lands
 1872—Sea and Shore
 Little Bobtail
 Cross and Crescent
 1873—Two stories in **The Fireside Companion**
 The Yacht Club
 Money Maker
 1874—Sunny Shores
 The Coming Wave
 The Dorcas Club
 1875—Ocean Born
 Out West
 Going West
 1876—Vine and Olive
 1877—Isles of the Sea
 1878—Lake Breezes
 1879—Going South
 The uncompleted story "The Pink of the Pacific" which was used twice more
 1880—Down South
 Lost—On Island (serial)
 Minding His Own Business (serial)
 1881—Building Himself Up
 Up the River
 1882—Lyon Hart (serial)
 1883—Louis Chiswick (serial)
 Royal Tarr (serial)
 (Probably) All Adrift
 Snug Harbor
 1884—Square and Compass
 Every Inch a Boy (serial)
 (Probably) Stem to Stern
 All Taut
 Ready About
 The Professor's Son (serial)
 1885—Fighting for His Own (serial)
 His Own Helper (serial)
 1886—Making a Man of Himself (serial)
 1887—Kit Dunstable (serial)
 Three Silver Kings (serial)
 Always in Luck (serial)
 The Young Pilot of Lake Montoban (serial)
 The Cruise of the Dandy (serial)
 1888—The Young Hermit of Lake Minnetonka (serial)
 Taken by the Enemy
 1889—The Prisoner of the Cave (serial)
 (Probably) Within the Enemy's Lines
 1890—On the Blockade
 (Probably) Stand by the Union

- 1891—A Missing Million
 1892—Fighting for the Right
 A Millionaire at Sixteen
 (Probably) A Victorious Union
 1893—American Boys Afloat
 1894—Brother Against Brother
 (Probably) In the Saddle
 1895—A Lieutenant at Sixteen
 1896—On the Staff
 (Probably) At the Front

- 1897—Pacific Shores
 1899—An Undivided Union

The following we cannot date, but probably after 1892:

- A Young Knight-Errant
 Strange Sights Abroad
 The Young Navigator
 Up and Down the Nile
 Asiatic Breezes
 Across India

- Half Round the World
 Four Young Explorers

Summary: for Beadle	1
Books	105
Christmas annuals (those that we know of)	6
O. O.'s Almanacs (that we are certain of)	2
Serials	18

Our total of "books" ----- 132
 So we say 132—"around and around we go."

Because he was well educated, an educator himself, a world traveler, knowledgeable as an editor and careful of how he wrote, we nominate William Taylor Adams as the winner over any contenders of the period.

FOR SALE

CHAPMAN, ALLEN

Radio Boys at the Sending Station. G&D. Good	2.00
Radio Boys' First Wireless. G&D, VG d/j water stained	2.50
Radio Boys' First Wireless. G&D. Good	2.00
Radio Boys in Gold Valley. G&D. Fair	1.50
Radio Boys on Signal Island. G&D. Good	2.00
Radio Boys on the Pacific. G&D. Good	2.00
Radio Boys Trailing a Voice. G&D. VG d/j	3.00
Radio Boys with the Flood Fighters. G&D, Good	2.00
Radio Boys with the Forest Rangers. G&D, Good	2.00
Radio Boys with the Iceberg Patrol. G&D, VG d/j	3.00
Radio Boys with the Iceberg Patrol. G&D, Good	2.00
Ralph in the Switch Tower. G&D, Good	2.00
Ralph of the Round House. G&D, Good	2.00
Ralph on the Midnight Flyer. G&D, Good	2.00
Ralph on the Oveland Express. G&D, Good	2.00
Ralph on the Railroad. G&D, Good, Contains the first Ralph stories	4.00
Tom Fairfield's Hunting Trip. C&L, Good	2.00
Tom Fairfield in Camp. C&L, Good, spine faded	1.50
Tom Fairfield's Schooldays. C&L, VG d/j	3.00
Working Hard to Win. C&L, small size. Good	3.00
Working Hard to Win. Goldsmith. VG d/j	2.00
Young Storekeeper, The. Goldsmith. Good	1.50

CHAPMAN, ARTHUR

Mystery Ranch. G&D, VG	2.00
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Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Postpaid.

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NEWS NOTES

Word has just been received that George Fronval of Nuits Saint Georges, France died of a heart attack late in February. George was a foremost Buffalo Bill collector and had one of the largest multi-language Buffalo Bill collections in the world. He was a frequent visitor to the United States and visited with many members of the Happy Hours Brotherhood. He authored many histories of the American West and biographies of Western personages including Jim Bridger, Geronimo, Buffalo Bill, Crazy Horse and many others.

Canyon Books of 21322 Lassen St., Chatsworth, Calif. 91311 is reprinting Alger titles. Found on the newsstands in the Norfolk, Virginia area were *The Western Boy* and *Struggling Upward*. They have announced two more, *The Young Outlaw* and *Strong and Steady*. These are in paperback and sell at \$1.25 each. (Information sent in by Louis Bodnar, Jr.)

DIME NOVEL COLLECTORS' BOOK SHELF

The Aenican Press, Leyden, Mass. 01337 announces the publication of 8 Alger titles as follows: *Dean Dunham*, *The Erie Train Boy*, *Frank and Fearless*, *Mark Manning's Mission*, *Ralph Raymond's Heir*, *A Rolling Stone*, *The Train Boy* and *Young Captain Jack*. All at \$6.95 each. At \$9.95 the company is also republishing Ralph D. Gardner's "*Horatio Alger*" with a new introduction by Herbert B. Mayes.

WAGNER, THE WEHR-WOLF, by G. W. M. Reynolds. A Victorian Gothic Classic of the Supernatural. Introduction and Edited by E. F. Bleiler. Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, NY 10014. A reprint of John Dick's edition of the story which originally appeared in Reynolds's Miscellany. Another excellent contribution by Dover to its growing list of dime novel and penny dreadful reprintings. Mr. Bleiler's introduction is an excellent introduction to the writings of Reynolds and his publishing history.

QUESTION AND ANSWER COLUMN

At the suggestion of George Holmes we resurrect our question and answer column. Anyone with questions about dime novels, boys books and related publications are welcome to use this column. If the answers are not known to your editor, the question will be used and we will let the membership come through with the answers. All we ask is that the questions be kept at reasonable length. The object is to share information so comments are also welcome when anyone disagrees with an answer. To kick off the column, George Holmes asks, "Has anyone seen a copy of the "*Jack Straw Series*" or the "*Ben Lightbody Series*" by Irving Crump? I have never seen one after years of collecting. Will be glad to hear from someone who has.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

3. Charles Bragin, 1253 Race Brook Road, New Haven, Conn. 06525
(New address)
227. Richard A. Kipp, 2623 S. W. 30th St., Apt. 65-B, Allentown, Pa. 18103
(New address)
341. Louis Bodnar, Jr, 1502 Laurel Ave., Chesapeake, Va. 23325 (New mem.)
345. Robert E. Andrews, Parsons-Jurden International Corp., 112 Elizabeth
11 Boulevard, Teheran, Iran (New member)
346. Wales College of Librarianship, Periodicals Section, The Library,
Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth, Cards., Gt. Britain (New member)
347. Horst K. Joost, 11014 Forest Hills Drive, Tampa, Fla. 33612 (New mem.)
348. Universitätsbibliothek Regensburg, 84 Regensburg 2. Postfach 409, West
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